

Committee: Public Safety Building Committee – Temporary Site Subcommittee
Place: Web Ex
Date: September 10, 2020
Time: 4:00 pm

Attachments / presentations: Presentation from Chief Strahan

Jaydon Grazik – resident recording the meeting

Committee Members Present: Mayor Roxann Wedegartner, Chair Dave Moscaritolo, Herb Forgey, Jean Wall, Peter McIver, Bob Strahan (Fire Chief), Jen Stromsten, Carole Collins on vacation – city advisor,

No minutes to approve - Jen S. volunteers to take the minutes henceforth

Dave M. - thanks to everyone working on this for so long, and the work of regular committee.

Roll Call: see list below from Webex Participants

Chief Strahan provides Powerpoint for background.

The fire house is

- Home to equipment / apparatus / tools
- Home to firefighters
- Site of educational tours and community visits
- Training

Major considerations: size of apparatus; vehicle exhaust removal (known carcinogen, firefighters have high rates of cancer) and other exhaust; heating & cooling to store equipment safely; and high volume water filling of apparatus (hydrants not always used); heat and hot water; cleaning of personnel and equipment and apparatus; cleaning and medical hazard decontamination using water as well as washer / dryer machines; bathrooms, drainage and runoff (and need to prevent freezing / fall hazards); lighting, station notification / dispatch system that reaches apparatus floor (alarm and public address); power must reach every truck when not in use to power up batteries / recharge; Electrical system – high voltage, water resistant; compressed air systems – regular compressor and then ceiling hung delivery to be accessible to trucks - cleaning, tires, airbrakes; special air compressor for breathing apparatus; Tools, staging and workspace – maintenance and repair equipment and conduct in-house vehicle repairs; Hose storage, washing and drying tower (could be a rack in a ventilated, heated area – needs 3 days to dry); SCBA fitting / testing / repair; Communications space (radios and other comms); Fitness area; Basement houses ATV, Command cars, Brush cars, boat etc; Storage for PPE – requires rapid access, open air flow, no uv / light exposure (every member has 2 sets of turnout gear one in primary locker the rest housed in basement); Additional Storage needed for– water for emergencies, foam, cleaning supplies, refrigerator, Speedi dry for oil spill, vehicle parts / chains / flammable liquids, medical supplies (multiple cabinets and lockers); pressure washer and snow removal equipment and small plow; recycling and trash;

Emergency water removal equipment; training props; Deep storage – tents, spare parts for exhaust extraction; Historic firepump.

Q&A

Dave M – **Can you talk about the places where the firefighters reside? The space they need to rest, where do meetings take place?**

Chief -

- Architect / OPM will cover that
- We don't expect to have meeting space in a temp facility
- Current fire station 2nd floor houses kitchen and sleeping quarters
- Chief does not worry this aspect will be handled,
- **Primarily need to emphasize safety issues**
 - To counter the impression that the apparatus floor is “simply a garage”
 - When returning from fire call, they must aggressively and quickly decontaminate firefighters, equipment, PPE, etc. – often this is when they call in mutual aid so this process can be completed before they are ready for the next call
 - Also emphasizing importance of removing exhaust from vehicles

Herb F. – adds that in this day and age it's imperative firefighters not bring home these contaminants. They used to go home and wash PPE at home. There have been positive changes we need to maintain.

Chief – firefighters are not allowed to go home with their PPE and clothes, must launder at the firestation. Confirmed with COVID. Also take special care with duty boots to keep contaminants out of living quarters.

Jean W. – Is there a company that rents facilities like this all set up or do we have to build it from scratch? Systems and structure.

Chief – yes. There are companies that will come in and do structures and systems.

Dennis Ross – there are some companies that make structures for fire apparatus. What they will not have is the systems – SCBA, extractor etc.

Jean W. – **do we have an idea of the cost to set this up?** \$1.7 MM currently identified

Mayor – **How many of the items listed on the slides need to come along, and how many can be stored elsewhere by the city?**

Chief – artifacts can be stored offsite, protected and temperature controlled. Some items can be stored in a connex (sp?) trailer. Just starting to look into that in detail.

Neil Joyce – We will do an exercise with Pacheco-Ross to program the new structure similarly to the current structure. We don't want to spend a nickel more than we have to on the

temporary facility because that takes away from the permanent station. But they will be there for the better part of 2 years so it has to perform and operate like the current station.

Dave M – Are there systems we could reuse in the temporary fire station even if they don't belong in the new station?

Chief – Probably. Compressor, for instance. There is a timing challenge. Air filling station requires company come in, gets recertified.

Neil Joyce on Basic timeline

Once a temp site is determined there will still be 6-8 weeks of program and design time to go to bid during the winter, hit the ground running in spring, relocating to temporary site in the summer, turning over existing fire station in the fall of next year.

Dave M. proposes addition to agenda – discussion of temporary site proposed at last Public Safety Building Committee Meeting - Hope Street (parking lot by courthouse)

Determining location is critical to our timeline.

Chief Strahan runs down other sites suggested and overview of Hope Street

- parking lot behind Wilson's. Challenging from response standpoint with narrow streets, on street parking, curbcuts, etc. Add snow and it's basically one-way on Chapman.
- Another location suggested was field behind middle school – remember we have to pave if it's a field and that saves money. Also would lose ballfield.

So having looked at Hope Street – took a look and it's tight, but it is manageable. Key is keeping that hill clean and sanded. According to Dennis (designer) it can fit. If we can retain some parking we will strive to do that. Will create hardship for some permit parking but we have parking garage nearby.

Jean Wall – I wonder if it's just time to hop on the solution and make a motion to make this a temp location.

Mayor – it would be a recommendation from the subcommittee to the full committee.

Jen S – This site is great. This neighborhood already made it through the courthouse building and the city accommodated parking needs well and neighborhood needs so we can do it again.

Mayor – working on permit holders, replacing revenue lost, will be working with courthouse employees and businesses to meet their needs as much as possible. Won't know exactly what's possible as far as leaving parking until we have design for apparatus bays and trailers.

Peter – Can someone speak to the layout of that Hope St lot as far as YMCA ROW, parking spots that abut Servicenet building, what has to be maintained and eliminated for our purposes? Do we have to widen access to YMCA parking lot?

Dennis – from tax map we understand there are 3 levels and we would use bottom two only. Top tier contains the dedicated spaces for 13 Prospect.

Chief – will likely be backing in ladder trucks off of Prospect so that side of the parking lot should only come into play except for personal vehicles

Dennis – we have to look at cost /feasibility of drive through for ladder truck only.

Chief – Tower will have to be in upper parking lot because of turning radius to Hope St. Don't see ourselves going up Prospect st except to incidents in that neighborhood.

Jean Wall – we do have to address concerns of Prospect St residents and ensure that those cars go to the parking garage, not into the neighborhood.

Herb F – **what's the occupancy in the parking garage on an average day?** Hope people can understand the need to save the town money, and that will involve some sacrifice like parking in the town garage.

Dave M – is the drawing presented last week the official conceptual?

Dennis – that was only done to prove to ourselves this was workable.

Peter – what consideration for space was in that concept?

Chief – in two separate structures which would be enough to fit the apparatus that we have.

Herb – motion that we present Hope Street as the choice for the temporary location for the FD. Jean Wall – second.

(no further discussion)

Roll Call Vote: Yes – Peter (non voting), Bob, Jen, Jean, Herb, Dave. Unanimous recommendation of Hope Street for temporary site.

Dave M – setting a time for recurring meetings. Mondays at 4 pm -every other week during same week as full Public Safety Cmte meeting. So next meeting is September 21 at 4 pm.

(Some discussion of whether to have the next meeting, what information we might be able to have in time for that meeting, next steps.)

Neil Joyce suggests next steps are organizational meetings with Chief and his staff, to start looking at specifics of programming with that site in mind (specs on # of bedrooms, storage requirements etc), floor plans, site egress, other design issues.

Peter – trying to identify ways this group can help progress

Dennis – the committee can identify a list of site factors and what the city needs us to look at in terms of the site.

Jen S – need to bring in Carole Collins, give Mayor time to reflect

Chief – need to get City Engineer into that, Marlo has done some of that work. **At what point should we start the process of public outreach with the neighborhood?**

Mayor – good thing to be thinking about. We knew we wanted to solidify this recommendation before coming before City Council. So we want to start that as soon as possible but not between now and this evening.

Dave M – should the public meeting be held in the main committee meeting or in this subcommittee?

Jen S – do we then assume the October 5 meeting of this subcommittee function as the time for that public hearing?

Mayor – Not to confirm yet but sounds good.

Any further discussion? Thanks to the Chief for educating us!

Jean Wall, Motion to adjourn – Herb second (approx. 5:35).

Participants list pulled from
Webex 4:31 pm:
Jennifer Stromsten
City of Greenfield- Host
City of Greenfield
Adam Champagne
Alex
Amy Moscaritolo
Anita Fritz
Bob Williford
Call-in User_3
Captain John Whitney
City of Greenfield

City of Greenfield
David Moscaritolo
dawn morin
Dennis Ross
Edward Jarvis
Fernando Fleury
Gene Howard
Herbert Forgey
Jaydon Grazick
Jean Wall
John Andrews
Katrina Pacheco
Mark

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